

State or Private Agency?

Pros & Cons

State Agency

PROS:

- Greater ability to make decisions on your own because of less contact with licensing staff after licensing.
- Freedom to take any placement you desire.
- Fostering Together helps navigate the system.
- Monthly in-home checks with the child's social worker.
- Notification of children in care needing homes.
- You decide who would be a good fit for your home.
- After hours and Emergent placements available.

CONS:

- Respite is challenging to arrange. Respite is when an approved family watches your foster child so you can get a break.
- No personal advocates. Once you are licensed, you are exposed to placement at the state level, without help from your licensing agency.

Private Agency

PROS:

- Your Child Placement Agency (CPA) acts as your personal advocate.
- CPA's arrange safe placements, take care of respite requests, and coordinate visits with biological parents
- After-hours phone support may be available 24/7
- Quarterly in-home checks with CPA
- Annual home health and safety visits
- Fostering Together helps navigate the system.

CONS:

- Not allowed to take any placement you desire.
- Regular checks can feel intrusive.
- Required to keep licensing file up to date.
- May have additional licensing requirements and policies.